

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SY-05 /038 W
-----101400Z 123861 /44

O P 101220Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9057
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ATHENS 1316

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CY, OVIP (CLIFFORD, CLARK M.)
SUB: CLIFFORD MISSION: ATHENS PROGRAM

REF: A) STATE 29938, B) ATHENS 1269

1. BITSIOS HAS NOW CONSULTED WITH CARAMANLIS AND JUST
TELEPHONED ME TO INDICATE CARAMANLIS' PREFERENCES FOR
THE SCHEDULE DURING THE OFFICIAL PORTION OF MR. CLIFFORD'S
PROGRAM WHILE IN ATHENS. IS PROVIDES FOR EARLIER AND SOME-
WHAT GREATER PARTICIPATION BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND, ON
THE WHOLE, FITS INTO THE MAIN LINES OF WHAT HAD PREVIOUSLY
BEEN DISCUSSED AND SEEMS EXCELLENT TO ME.

2. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17. FOLLOWING CLIFFORD'S ARRIVAL
AT ABOUT 2:00 P.M. (ESTIMATED) THAT AFTERNOON IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCENARIO REF B, CLIFFORD AND PARTY
WOULD PROCEED TO THEIR LODGING ACCOMMODATIONS FOR SETTLING
IN AND FRESHENING UP. IF LUNCH CANNOT BE
SERVED TO THEM ENROUTE FROM VIENNA WE COULD ARRANGE FOR
A BRIEF, SIMPLE LUNCH HERE, FOLLOWED BY A SHORT REST.
I WOULD SUGGEST THAT WE ALSO HAVE A CLASSIFIED BRIEFING
SESSION AND DISCUSSION AT THE EMBASSY FOR AT LEAST AN
HOUR SOMETIME LATER THAT AFTERNOON. CARAMANLIS WISHES THAT
CLIFFORD COME TO HIS OFFICE FOR A BRIEF GET-ACQUAINTED
AND COURTESY CALL AT 6:00 P.M. CLIFFORD WILL BE
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FINISHED BY 7:00 P.M. AND THE REST OF THE EVENING IS FREE
FOR AN INFORMAL WORKING DINNER FOR HIM AND HIS PARTY AT MY
RESIDENCE, IF HE AGREES.

2. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18. THERE CAN BE A FURTHER CLASSIFIED
DISCUSSION AT THE EMBASSY BEGINNING AT ABOUT 9:30 A.M.,
IF AGREEABLE. CARAMANLIS WISHES TO HAVE HIS MAIN

SUBSTANTIVE MEETING WITH CLIFFORD AT 11:00 A.M. THAT MORNING, FOLLOWED BY LUNCH AT APPROXIMATELY 1:00 P.M., HOSTED BY CARAMANLIS (OTHER PARTICIPANTS YET TO BE WORKED OUT AND AGREED). THIS LUNCH SHOULD BE OVER BY APPROXIMATELY 3:00 P.M. THE NEXT SESSION WOULD BE AT 5:30 P.M. AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS AND HIS TOP STAFF FOR THE KIND OF DISCUSSION AND EXCHANGE OF VIEWS THAT BITSIOS PROPOSED IN PARA 7 REF B. THIS MEETING WOULD END ABOUT 7:00 OR 7:30 P.M. AT 9:00 P.M., WE WOULD HAVE AN INFORMAL DINNER WITH GREEK OFFICIALS AT MY RESIDENCE. CARAMANLIS MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT COME TO THAT DINNER, DEPENDING ON HOW THINGS EVOLVE THURSDAY AND FRIDAY AND WHETHER HE THINKS HE NEEDS TO SEE CLIFFORD AGAIN. OTHER GOG OFFICIALS WHO WOULD BE INVITED TO THE DINNER WOULD BE DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF, COORDINATION MINISTER PAPALIGOURAS, FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS, AND PERHAPS SEVERAL OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS DEPENDING ON THE SEATING ARRANGEMENTS WE CAN MAKE IN OUR NOT-TOO-BIG DINING ROOM. OPPOSITION LEADER GEORGE MAVROS WOULD ALSO BE INVITED (CARAMANLIS AND BITSIOS ARE NOT THRILLED WITH THIS PROSPECT BUT HAVE RAISED NO OBJECTION TO IT AND BITSIOS SAID TO ME THAT IT WAS "ALL RIGHT" WITH THE GOVERNMENT IF I WISHED TO INVITE HIM, AND I DO THINK HE SHOULD BE INCLUDED IF CLIFFORD INTENDS TO SEE ECEVIT AND OTHER NON-GOVERNMENT PERSONALITIES IN TURKEY.) BITSIOS AND I FEEL IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO INCLUDE WIVES IN THIS DINNER, IF CLIFFORD AGREES, MAKING IT MORE OF A SOCIAL OCCASION. ALSO, THE GREEK OFFICIALS PREFER THAT IT BE INFORMAL (DARK SUITS

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FOR MEN, ALTHOUGH LADIES MAY WEAR LONG DRESSES).

3. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19. BITSIOS IS HOLDING TIME
FOR A FURTHER MEETING AT 11:00 A.M. IN THE FOREIGN

MINISTRY IF ONE IS REQUIRED. THIS CAN BE DECIDED BETWEEN CLIFFORD AND BITSIOS IN THEIR FRIDAY EVENING MEETING. IN ANY CASE, BITSIOS WILL HOST A STAG LUNCH AT 1:15 P.M., PROBABLY AT SOME SEASIDE HOTEL ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF ATHENS. THIS WOULD COMPLETE THE OFFICIAL PART OF THE PROGRAM AND THE REMAINDER OF CLIFFORD'S STAY IN ATHENS WOULD BE FREE UNTIL HIS DEPARTURE SUNDAY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARA 6, REF. B.

4. BITSIOS NOTED THAT, ACCORDING TO THE SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED FROM WASHINGTON, CLIFFORD WOULD BE LEAVING CYPRUS FEBRUARY 25 OR 26 BUT NOT MEETING IN LONDON UNTIL FEBRUARY 28. HE INDICATED HE DID NOT WISH TO INTRUDE IN ANY WAY BUT IF FOR ANY REASON CLIFFORD WANTED TO HAVE A REST STOP ON GREEK TERRITORY AFTER LEAVING CYPRUS AND BEFORE GOING TO LONDON, THE GOG WOULD MAKE ALL ARRANGEMENTS, INCLUDING FULL SECURITY. BITSIOS SUGGESTED THE ISLANDS OF RHODES, CRETE, OR CORFU AS POSSIBILITIES. I SAID I WAS NOT SURE WHAT CLIFFORD'S PLANS WERE FOR THAT PERIOD BUT THAT I WOULD CONVEY THIS MOST THOUGHTFUL OFFER, WHICH I KNEW HE WOULD APPRECIATE. I INDICATED CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT IT WAS CONCEIVABLE THAT CLIFFORD MIGHT FIND IT NECESSARY TO TRANSIT GREECE FOLLOWING HIS DEPARTURE FROM CYPRUS BUT NOTHING HAD BEEN WORKED OUT AS YET. BITSIOS SAID THAT HE HIMSELF HAD EXPECTED TO BE IN JORDAN ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT THAT WEEKEND BUT, AS A RESULT OF THE TRAGIC DEATH YESTERDAY OF THE QUEEN, HIS VISIT MIGHT BE POSTPONED. IF SO, AND HE WERE IN GREECE, HE WOULD BE MOST PLEASED TO SEE CLIFFORD AGAIN FOLLOWING THE LATTER'S DEPARTURE FROM CYPRUS; IF HE WERE NOT IN GREECE AND IT WORKED OUT CONVENIENTLY FOR CLIFFORD, HE (BITSIOS) THOUGHT ONE OR MORE OTHER GREEK OFFICIALS WOULD BE GLAD TO SEE HIM AGAIN. I WAS NON-COMMITAL, SAYING ONLY THAT I WOULD CONVEY THEIR KIND INVITATION AND THOUGHTS TO CLIFFORD.

5. BITSIOS ASKED ME WHEN I THOUGHT I WOULD HAVE CLIFFORD'S REACTION TO THIS PROPOSED PROGRAM AND I SAID THAT I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE AND PROBABLY COULD LET HIM KNOW BY TOMORROW MORNING, FRIDAY. HE SAID THAT WOULD BE FINE.

6. COMMENT: THIS PROGRAM LOOKS EXCELLENT TO ME AND I WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION BY TOMORROW THAT IT IS ACCEPTABLE OR INDICATIONS OF ANY CHANGES OR ALTERATIONS DESIRED. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER MR. CLIFFORD AGREES TO OUR HAVING WIVES AT THE FRIDAY EVENING DINNER AND WHETHER OR NOT HE WISHES MAVROS TO BE INVITED.

MY RECOMMENDATION IS YES ON BOTH POINTS. NO REACTION FROM CLIFFORD IS CALLED FOR AT THIS POINT TO BITSIOS' OFFER OF FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE OVER THE WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 26-27, OTHER THAN AN EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION. A FINAL DECISION CAN BE MADE ON THIS BY MR. CLIFFORD AT ANY POINT DURING HIS TRIP OR FOLLOWING HIS ARRIVAL IN ATHENS.

7. I AM DELIGHTED THAT MR. CLIFFORD WILL BE STAYING WITH
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US. AS NELSON LEDSKY KNOWS, WE HAVE A VERY COMFORTABLE, SEMI-DETACHED GUEST SUITE ON OUR WELL-PROTECTED RESIDENCE GROUNDS WHICH WE WILL PUT AT HIS DISPOSAL. IT HAS TWO BEDROOMS (ONE WITH A DOUBLE BED AND ONE WITH TWIN BEDS) EACH WITH ADJOINING BATHROOM, PLUS ONE COMFORTABLE SITTING ROOM AREA. WE WILL BE VERY GLAD TO ACCOMMODATE THE SY ESCORT IN THE SECOND BEDROOM. WE FULLY UNDERSTAND MR. NIMETZ' DECISION AND ARE MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO INCLUDE HIM WITH THE REST OF THE PARTY IN THE ATHENS HILTON.
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